

THE COURIER

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Diary of Edgar Harvey Powers

Editor's Note: This transcription comes from a small diary that was discovered by Barbara Hastings Honkala in 1988 while she was organizing the Hastings Family Papers at the John Hastings Homestead at 18 Broad Street, Bethel. It covers much of the year 1864 (some pages are missing, and the diary stops in late November) and must have come into the Hastings Homestead through some connection to Eugenia Roberts Hastings (born in Hanover, Maine in 1846) who is mentioned repeatedly in the diary and grew up in Hanover with Edgar Harvey Powers, who was born 4 April 1843, the youngest child of Jonathan, Jr. and Hannah Andrews Powers. He married on 12 February 1867, Jennie Desire Stearns, who was born on 19 October 1843, the daughter of Jonathan and Hannah Chapman Stearns of Bethel. They had two sons before her death on 20 September 1882. Edgar married second on 11 December 1883, Carrie Carr, who was born 28 February 1864. A farmer, Powers acquired and worked on the farm of his father, Jonathan Powers, Jr. Active in town politics, he served as Third Selectman in 1885, Second Selectman in 1886 and as Town Clerk, 1866-68 and 1881-1886. A member of and Master of the Bethel Masonic Lodge (1870), he was buried in the Hanover Cemetery following his death on 27 September 1894 at the age of fifty-one. Powers' farm was situated on present U.S. Route 2, about one and three-quarters miles west of Hanover Village. The farmland has been subdivided, but the house is still standing and owned by Elizabeth Houde. Powers's siblings included Augustine, born 10 April 1834, married Matilda M., resided in Newry; Galen H., born 20 August 1835, died, 20 October 1838; Charles H., born 6 October 1837, married Sarabette Moore, resided in Newry; Theresa C., born 1 July 1840, married Edwin C. Lane, resided in Newry. Others mentioned in the diary: James G. Roberts, Sr. and his wife, Beulah E. Bartlett Roberts, who resided east of Edgar in the home currently owned by Dr. Thomas Deluca. Their children were Eugenia L. D., James Gardiner, Jr., Sarah J., Joshua B., Emma L., Etha Estelle, Sophia K. and Leon A. Milton Roberts and his wife Josephine Jewett Roberts, who resided on the next farm east of Edgar on the site of the present home of Richard, Jr. and Tammy James. Their children were Mary E. Almerton, Modestus, and a daughter, Lauranta, who died in 1862. Cyrus Bartlett and his wife,



Edgar Harvey Powers (1843-1894)

Photo courtesy of Bethel Masonic Lodge # 97 AF & AM.

Caroline Smith Bartlett, who resided on Old U.S. Route 2 on the farm started by his father, Stephen, one of the six Bartlett brothers who settled in Bethel, now the site of the home of Chris Kellner. Reuben B. Foster, widower of Sarah A. Bartlett Foster, resided near the site of Oxford County Antiques. Five of their eleven children died before the diary began to be kept. The others were Reuben B., Jr., Joan Amanda, Julia B., Helen F., Lucien L. and Lucia Letitia.

Orson Powers (Edgar's uncle) and his wife Salley E. Hibbard Powers, who lived on the farm just west of Edgar on the site of the present home of John Beaudoin. The Powers children were, Henry, Corydon, Sarah, Julia, Lauriston, Abner B., Leander, Rosilla, Charles H. and Alpha T. Ball B. Willis, widower of Joann Roberts Willis, lived on the site of the unoccupied home owned by John C. Morse, immediately west of the home of Orson Powers. Their children were Olive, Mary and Alice. William O. and Agnes Hastings Straw, were probably residing in the buildings on the present site of Barbara Lapham's home. Julia Andrews Stearns, widow of Benjamin Franklin Stearns, and sister of Edgar's mother, resided in the house opposite the old part of the Hanover Cemetery presently owned by Dean Gross. Their children were Julia F., Fidelus F., John Bickmore, Fedelia and Rosetta E. Bela and Selina Williams who lived in the gambrel roofed house built by Jesse Duston before 1800 and currently owned by John Booth. The Deacon mentioned in the text is unidentified, but may be

Reuben Foster. All the others mentioned above have been eliminated as possibilities. The only other family living between the village and the home of Edgar at this time was William Barker's. He was commonly referred to as "Captain." Much gratitude is extended to Warren Stearns, Hanover, Maine for the transcription of the diary and numerous useful annotations.

1864-January 1—This diary presented to me by E. H. [Edgar Harvey] Powers and today I commence to write upon its pages. My most sincere wish is, that I may do nothing during the New Year that will cause me a blush of shame to write here in. This day commenced with a light snow, but it turned to rain. [Ezra T.] Russell says he cannot teach me in algebra. January 2—The coldest day we've had this winter. Father went to Augusta to pay the soldiers. Was surprised this evening—George Holt and Evander Perlin called. Mr.

Morse is here, he made me a pair of shoes today. I have got an awful cold, have been most sick today. January 3, Theresa [Powers Lane, his sister] was here today. She went up with Mr. Holt. Went down to the office. Called into James [James G. Roberts, Sr.] this evening. Enjoyed myself first rate, or should, if I had not made such a blunder. I never was so worked up in my life. Charles [Powers, his brother] come [sic] down after some liquor. Gard [James Gardner Roberts, son of James G.] and I went down to [Reuben] Fosters [sic] and got a horse blanket that Hervey [Hastings] left there. Wrote in Genes [sic] Diary. We read "Union Bud" Paper. Charles borrowed our air tight stove. Found a rope halter. January 4—Ezra Russell commenced to board here today. Went down to the village this morning. Went into the woods and got one load of wood, which finished the wood I chopped last spring. Got a hemlock log on the sled, but steers could not draw it, and I had to leave it. It was quite comfortable working today. January 5—Stormy, snowed about three inches. Went into Mr. Russells [sic] school this afternoon. Called into James G. Roberts. Aunt Ellen [?] was there. Went down and got Aunt Ellen and Eugenia. They spent the evening here, and I carried them home. Went in and stopped awhile. January 6—Went up a[nd] hauled wood for Mrs. [Salina] Williams. Hauled her five loads. Lauriston [Powers] and Elvira [Bean] called down here this evening. Mr. Russell sent a letter to Hate I. Barker. He is writing Geographical Definitions. Pat [hired man] "said to Barbour," [Jonas Barbour Willis?] "how do you do?" Barb said, "none of your business. It shows what a low mind Barb has got. January 7—Went up to Elijah Russells [sic] with Mr. Stearnes [sic] [?]. Fidelus [Stearns, his cousin] stays with me tonight. Ezra T. Russell and I have had a good time this evening. There was [sic] five scholars when he commenced school this morning. Loch [Lauriston Powers] come [sic] into school this morning and said, "good morning." They do not expect John C. Littlehale to live. January 8—Went into woods and got one load of wood. Augustine [Powers, his brother] went down to mill with load of logs. He wanted me to go up with him tonight and haul down a load of timbers, so I rode his horse upon the back. Come [sic] down to singing school kept by JRH [Joshua R. Howard]. Stayed to Ned's [Edwin Lane, brother-in-law] with Newton Holt. Had a very pleasant time. January 9—Got up this morning and found it lamed me some riding up to Newry last night horseback. Come [sic] down with a load of logs. Mr. Russell wanted me to go down to Fosters' with him this evening. We went down, and he combed his hair at the door before we went in. I could not help laughing in my sleeve to see him slick up. January 10—Rev. Mr. Garland preached up to the upper school house today. I did not go up. Hervey Hastings stopped here to dinner. Ezra T. Russell wrote in Letitia's [Foster, Reuben's daughter] Album this eve. Loch called in here this eve. We had a sing. Quite pleasant and warm. Went down to the village this forenoon. Pat went over to Uncle Peters' [Powers] today. Our aqueduct [sic] has stopped running. January 11—Ezra Russell boards to Milton Roberts this week. Have been hauling wood for Jesse D. Howe today. Gilbert Howe's girl [Caroline F., age 12] died this morning at six o'clock. Peter Bean's boy [Seward W., born 1846] died today at twelve. They both died with Diphtheria [sic]. Leroy and Laprelet Morgan worked for Jesse [Howe] today chopping wood. It has been quite pleasant. January 12—Have been hauling wood for Jesse D. Howe. Hauled six loads of wood yesterday, and five today. Gilbert's girl was buried today at twelve. There is a Panorama down to the village tonight. I went up to Newry to Lyceum with Lucian L. Foster



House and barn of Edgar Harvey Powers, Hanover, Maine, ca. 1900. Photos courtesy of Warren Stearns.

[Reuben's son]. I preached a Hard Shell Sermon and gave a declamation "Onward and Upward." Ira M. Russell acted very queer tonight. I don't know what the matter was with him. It has been very warm, for the time of year. January 13—Went into the woods and got one load of wood. There was a circle up to Ball B. Willis this afternoon and evening. Mother went up; I did not. I spent the evening at James [James G. Roberts, Sr.]; and it was an evening well spent. Enoch Bartlett and Siah [Josiah Black], both went there drunk today. Liz [Mary E. Roberts, daughter of Milton] spent the evening there. It has been a splendid day, warm and pleasant. January 14—Went into the woods and got one load of wood in the forenoon. In afternoon Ezra T. Russell, Liz [Elvira Bean, daughter of Nelson Bean], Sarah Howard [daughter of Joseph], Genie and I went into CTD Crocketts [sic] school over the river. We had a good time. He is the same old Crockett. He hit Liz off pretty hard. Russell had to slick up his hair two or three times. Genie gave me a lock of her hair. I went down to the Office this eve. Uncle [sic] Wm [Andrews, his mother's brother] stays here to night. January 15—It has been a nice warm day. Got Mrs. Williams [sic] horse and Mother and I went out to Hiram Howes. Mary Elsie wanted me to carry Genie out there this winter. Mr. Foy and wife came there. Snowed in the afternoon. Uncle [sic] Wm rode down to the village with me. Saw Genie to the Doctors when we come [sic] home. Called down to James to leave a vail [sic] that Mother borrowed. Gardner come [sic] with me and spent the evening. J R Howard told me a story

that come [sic] from Barb Willis, which was beneath my notice. January 16—Awoke and found the wind whirling the snow rather briskly. Blowed all day. Moderated about 4 o'clock. Charles and Sarabette [Moore Powers, brother and wife] stay [sic] here tonight. We all went down to James [sic], this evening. Charles and I went down to the Office. We had a pleasant call. I think Genie is a good girl. Pat went down to Miltons [sic] [Roberts]. It is quite pleasant this evening. Win [Winfield Howe] and Willard Jewett has got the Diphtheria [sic]. January 17—Again it [was] one of our townsmen called to die. Clement Bean [son of Peter York Bean] is this time called. He died this afternoon. Mrs. Russell and Willard Jewetts [sic] oldest child [Albion K. Jewett] was taken with Diphtheria [sic] to day. Also Emery Russell [Joseph Emery Russell] was taken with it to day. Poor Willard [Jewett] they say must die, and Cynthia Bean [daughter of Peter York Bean]. O how I pity them, for I think I know something about it. I mean the families. James Roberts is a noble hearted man. Charles and Sarabette went home this afternoon. I called into the Deacons [sic] [?] this afternoon. Gene was there. When I come [sic] called into James. We squared some words some time. I think it is good fun. The Deacon told Eugenia and I [of] his courtship. He said he wanted a pair of gloves knit, and he told two girls if one would knit one and the other the other he would marry the one that knit the glove that wore the longest, and he said he did. The other one was Capt Willis [sic] wife. Eugenia and I tried to square Edgar but could not, so we agreed the one that could square it, to sent [sic] it to the other. The minister's mother is 100 years old to day. Mrs. Roberts has had dreams that make her think they are going to be sick. Eugenia commenced to tell something the Deacon said, but was afraid it would worry her mother so she did not tell it. Hoyt [probably Gardner G. Hoyt] sits up with Peter Beans [sic] to night. January 18—Went into the woods in forenoon and got one load of wood. Ball [Willis] called and wanted me to help dig Clem Beans [sic] grave. I helped him. He was buried at 4 o'clock this afternoon. They wanted me to be one of the bearers, but I could not on account of helping Ball. I squared the word Edgar this morning and sent it down to Eugenia. She squared it another way and sent it up to me to night. January 19—Went into the woods in forenoon and got one load of wood. Gardner come [sic] up after me to go down and help him get some wood. We got one load, and it rained so, we did not get one again. Gard and I took some whiskey. We got wet all through. James offered to pay me, but I would not take anything. If I earned my dinner and whiskey I done [sic] well. I am afraid James is going to be sick. Saw Genes [sic] dress. I think it is very pretty. There is trouble brewing in this school. Willard Jewett and Peter Beans [sic] girl [Cynthia E.] died last night. January 20—Got four loads of wood to day. Went down to Miltons [sic] this morning on an errand, and so called to see how James was. James and Emma [his daughter] have got the Diphtheria [sic] I heard to night. I am afraid it will go through that family. My whiskey that I took yesterday made me sleep like a log last night. I got a little cold getting wet yesterday. Willard Jewett and Peter Beans [sic] girl buried to day at about two o'clock. I called into Mr. [William O.] Straws [sic] this evening. Had a very pleasant call. It has been some windy to day. January 21—Have been hauling wood today for James Roberts. Hauled him four loads, and one to home. Uncle [sic] Orson [Powers] helped him to day. He scraped the

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President's Column

Through the efforts of Curator of Collections Randy Bennett and Curatorial Assistant Danna Nickerson, the Society has recently opened four new exhibits. They include one of books, papers and audio files documenting the northeastern Indian experience, a gift of Charles R. Huntoon of Portland, Maine. There are also exhibits on the history of the Androscoggin River, White Mountain souvenirs, and Maine minerals and gems. The latter exhibit is expected to be a forerunner of a proposed museum facility within the new ell and barn slated to be built in the next few years at the O'Neil Robinson House. This is expected to included dedicated spaces for the display and storage of mineral specimens, mining equipment and related materials such as photos, documents and books. More information can be found on these exhibits at the Society's web site.

We had over 500 people, the largest crowd ever, at the 4th of July community picnic, which featured a concert by the Portland Brass Quintet. Many thanks again to everyone who helps us make this popular event possible each year.

The Planning Study undertaken by the Board of Trustees late last year has been completed. Our consultant worked with us to better articulate the Society's vision for the future and to ascertain how the Society and its vision were viewed by the forty-two participants. We are now considering the conclusions of the study and formulating plans to determine how the Society proceeds with accomplishing the Society's vision for the future. As soon as the our planning process is completed, we will share our conclusions in this column.

Allen Cressy

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

The Bethel Historical Society is committed to building on its reputation as a premier regional history center that will continue to enrich the educational and cultural life of its community for generations to come. Members and friends have generously contributed to the operations of the Society and to the acquisition of the Robinson House. In order to ensure the long-term maintenance and further development of the Center's facilities, programs, and collections, the Society is seeking new forms of support. You, readers of *The Courier*, are asked to consider making a charitable gift to the Society through a bequest in your will, the establishment of a trust, or a number of other financial arrangements and options that are available. These charitable gifts can be structured to support the Society's mission while at the same time assuring the security of your family. For more information, please contact the Society by calling (207) 824-2908 or (800) 824-2910 or by writing to P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012 or by emailing: info@bethelhistorical.org

WESTERN MAINE SAINTS

A Bethel Family (Frost)

Nauvoo, England and Back to Nauvoo

By Jayne W. Fife, with Roselyn Kirk

(continued from the last issue)

During that harried time, Mary had other things on her mind. Her sister Olive Frost, who was only thirty, died. She had never been strong and her health deteriorated in England. On 25 September, she became ill with malaria and after two weeks of chills and fever, she died of pneumonia.

On 10 December, leaders and their wives received the sacred ordinances given to worthy members. Even though they would have to leave soon, receiving these blessings was of great importance. Mary was one of about twenty women to supervise the preliminary ordinances in the women's area.

On 26 December, a Marshall appeared in Nauvoo with warrants for the arrest of the Twelve Apostles.

Word was received on 17 January that Governor Ford was intending to place Nauvoo under martial law and on the 29th, state troopers arrived in Nauvoo seeking to arrest church leaders. Two days later, the leaders met and agreed that they had to start westward immediately. Boats were made ready and all their families were told to be ready to leave within four hours of being notified. The first exodus group with six wagons crossed the Mississippi on February 6.

Parley married his eighth wife, sixth plural wife, on February 8. He left Nauvoo on 14 February with his family of seven wives and six children: Nephi (six weeks), Alma (six months), Mary Ann (13), Parley, Jr. (9), Olivia (4 ½) and Moroni (fourteen months). It is probable that Mary did not know of the existence of most of these wives. The group also included teamsters for their three ox driven wagons. They also had a one-horse drawn carriage. Crossing a river on ice, they slept for several nights in tents and wagons. There were two to three inches of snow on the ground and it was very cold.

They then moved a few miles to a log granary which had been a tithing collection building. There was a bin full of corn at one end and a pile of potatoes in the basement that supplied needed food for them and their animals. The main group was located more than a mile ahead of Sugar Creek where Brigham Young was waiting for more members in order to organize traveling companies. Parley traveled back and forth for meetings. It was bitter cold, alternatively raining and snowing. Most people slept in tents and wagons, or under wagons. Almost a week out, Parley decided to return to Nauvoo for some wagon fittings he would need for the long journey. He took Mary and little Moroni, who had been suffering a bad cough, to see her parents and sister who remained in the Pratt's home. Aaron was still laboring on the interior of the Temple. When it was finished, they intended to return to Maine.

The blacksmith was too busy to fill Parley's request that day, so he left Mary and returned to camp. Two days later he returned for her, but the river was full of icy mush and impossible to cross by ferry. As there were many people

going to and from Nauvoo at that time, when the river conditions improved Mary was able to reach their camp on her own. She had left Moroni with her parents. Gathering her two daughters, Mary Ann and Olivia, she returned to Nauvoo, telling Parley that they would catch up when the frigid weather was over. She had lost two children and two sisters to illness in the last two years. She was taking no chances. Her surviving children were her main concern now. One might also assume that living in such close quarters with six other wives proved a difficult, if not unbearable situation for her.

By the end of May, according to Mary Ann's autobiography, "The main body of the Church had left Nauvoo and for a time, peace and quiet reigned in the city. We individually were waiting for our house to be sold that we might pursue our journey...."

On 10 September 1846, a mob advanced on the city to drive the last remnant of the Mormon population which generally consisted of the poorest citizens. The city was only lightly fortified. There was a battle, during which three male residents were killed. For safety, a large group of women and children had gathered at the Pratt home. Anson Pratt, Parley's brother, asked Mary to supervise the baking of bread for the defenders to last throughout the crisis. Finally on 15 September, it was agreed that the remaining Mormons would leave the city in three days. Only a few men, their clerks and their families were allowed to stay to continue to try to sell property, but, as in Missouri, most residents received nothing. After they left, people came in and took what they wanted.

Three days later, Mary and children were picked up and deposited on the edge of the Mississippi River where they spent the night. As they were preparing their camp, they heard a martial band and members of the mob marching their way. Young Mary Ann later recorded, "just as they were opposite our camp, they halted an instant, and the captain shouted, 'You're a d-d pretty looking set, ain't you?... My Mother took a step forward and replied, 'Gentlemen, it is your day now, but it will be ours by and by.' He called back, 'Shut up that, or we will have you under guard.' She returned, 'I do not fear you, Sir,' just as they were passing."

The next day they crossed the river to Iowa on a flat boat where they camped on the river bank a mile above Montrose with Parley's mother, Charity, his two brothers, Anson and and William, their families, and about three hundred refugees.

Supplies were scant. A flock of birds landing nearby provided immediate relief and then a boat with flour, sugar, coffee, rice, dried apples and bacon came up the river from St. Louis, kind people there having been alerted to their dilemma. Word also had reached Brigham Young and he dispatched teams, wagons, tents and provisions.

William Pratt's little daughter, Martha, was ill and soon died. It was decided to take her back to Nauvoo to be buried in Parley and Mary's yard with the other children. When they did this, they were amazed at how quiet Nauvoo was. The mob, having accomplished their purpose, had disappeared, so Mary and her children returned. This time they lived with one of the church agents left to arrange the sale of property. ■

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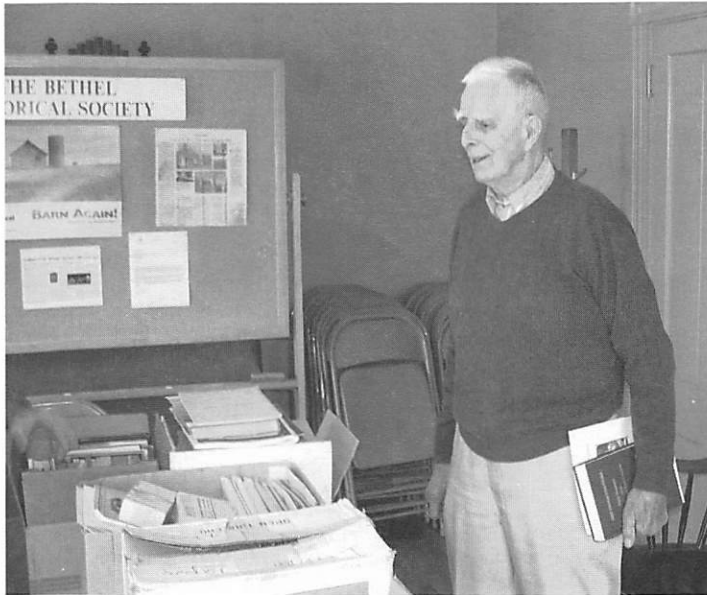
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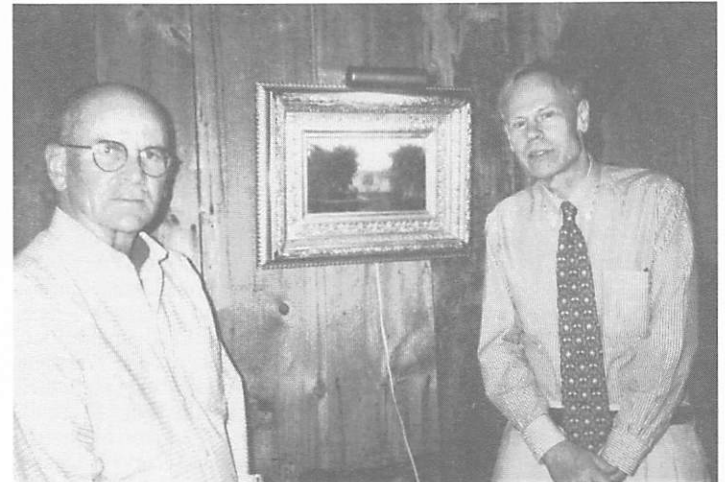
Charles Huntoon of Portland recently presented the Society with his collection of books on North American Indians used in the publication of an Abenaki dictionary. He also donated recordings of the Abenaki language made by Stephen Laurent of Intervale, NH.



Brig. General Russ Howard spoke on the meaning of the Fourth of July at the Community Picnic prior to the Portland Brass Quintet concert.



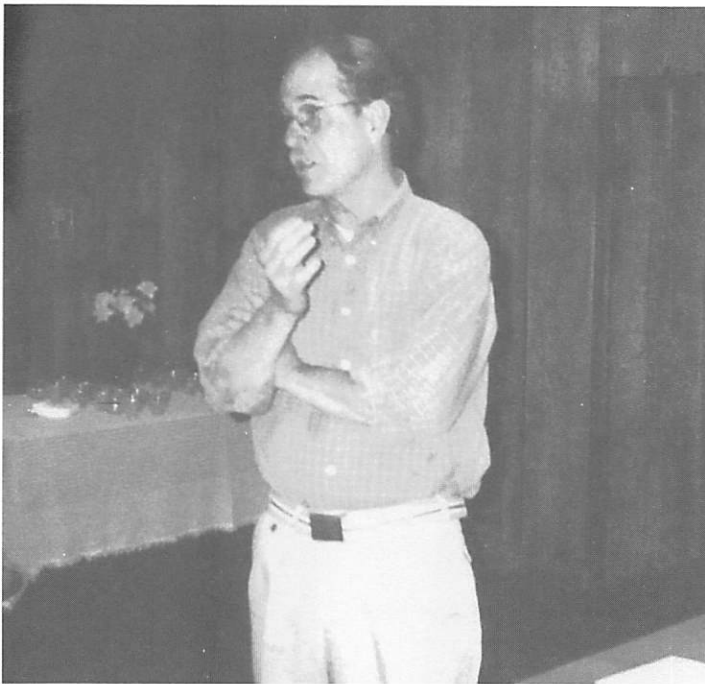
President Al Cressy receives a \$1000 grant from Tricia Quinn of the Plum Creek Foundation for programming support.



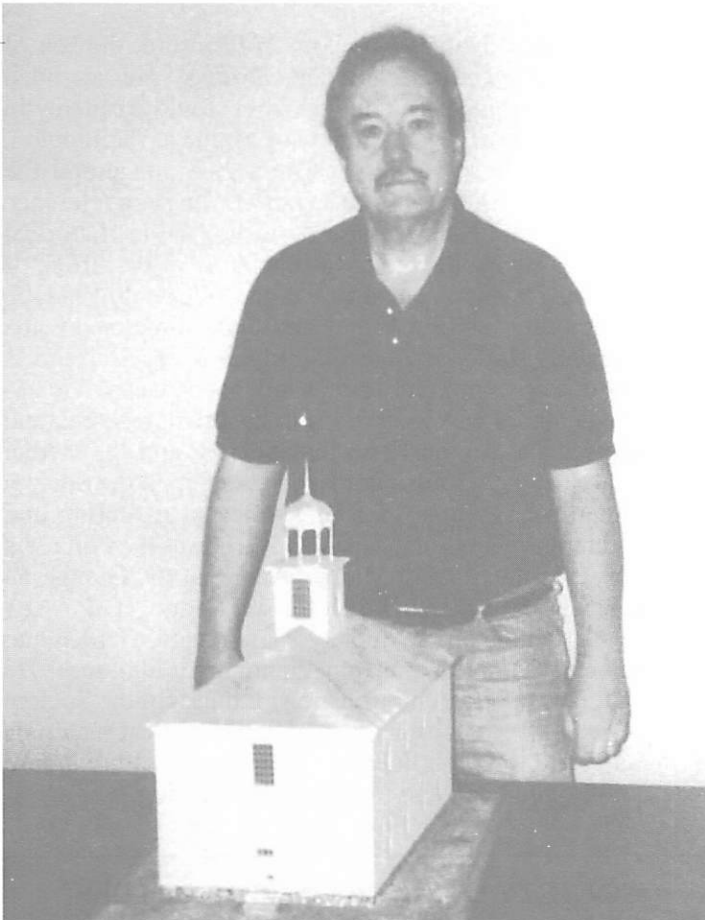
Fritz von Ulmer of Denmark, Maine, owner of a Harrison Bird Brown painting (center), with Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., who spoke on the artist and his work at the June 14 lecture, part of the series on "Maine Character and Characters," sponsored in part by a grant from the Maine Humanities Council.



Jo Radner, oral historian, left, presented an oral history workshop for high school girls (foreground) with Caroline Gould, Sue Farrar and June Abbott among the adult women attending who served as resources for the session. The workshop was sponsored in part by a grant from the Maine Humanities Council.



Paul T. Burlin, Ph. D., University of New England, spoke on Maine-Hawaii connections at the May lecture as part of the series on "Maine Character and Characters," sponsored in part by a grant from the Maine Humanities Council.



Society members Jim and Linda Auman have presented the Society with a scale replica of Bethel's first (1807) Congregational Meetinghouse. A skilled model maker, Mr. Auman has also created replicas of the town's Grand Trunk Railway station and "Chair Factory," which are on display at the Robinson House.



Jim Mann discusses the Bumpus Mine operations with Society Trustees Walter Hatch and Susan Herlihy and Life Member Larry Stifler during a summer visit.



Rotary Exchange Group from Switzerland visited the Society's Regional History Center in June.



Hundreds of Society members and friends, including Peggy Paine and Richard Valentine (backs to camera), enjoyed the annual 4th of July concert performed by the Portland Brass Quintet (right).

(Diary continued from page 3)

butter off from our our plates. They thinfraid [sic] James has got the small pox. He is a very sick man. Genie said if I had the Small Pox she would take care of me, if she had it before I did. Gardner brought me up to night. He come [sic] up after his axe. Straw [William O.] has been down after me to help him tomorrow. I guess I shall not help him. He just called down, and said Cate [John Decatur] Hastings was going to help him. Ryerson got six bushels of oats here to day. It has been quite warm and pleasant. Abner [B. Powers, his cousin] and Pat [probably hired man] are out shooting rabbits this evening. Emma Roberts is better. January 22—Mr. Russell took dinner here to day. Went into the woods and got one load of wood. Went up to Newry and staid [sic] to Charles all night. Took up a note of 21 dollars and took his note of 28 dollars. Did not go to bed till past twelve. Went to singing school, kept by J. R. Howard. Paid Hervey Hastings 2.25. January 23—Went to Bethel Hill with H. S. [Hervey S.] Hastings. Bought a pair of pants. Paid 5.50 for them. Got them at Kimballs [sic] [probably Ira Crocker Kimball's store, overlooking the town common]. Elvira [Bean] sent up and got a Diary. Theresa come [sic] down to day with Lawson Smith. Edwin come [sic] down with me. They talk of having an exhibition in two weeks from next Tuesday. It is very good sleighing. James is better. Sarabette lent me a book and some papers. January 24—Theresa, Edwin and I called town to the Deacons [sic]. We called on JGR [James G. Roberts]. Genie went over with us. Edwin got the Deacons [sic] horse and I carried them up. Genie, Liz and I are going to answer some advertisements. I answered two tonight. Six hunters went back on the mountain to day and killed two foxes. Very pleasant.

(to be continued in the next issue)

New Life Members

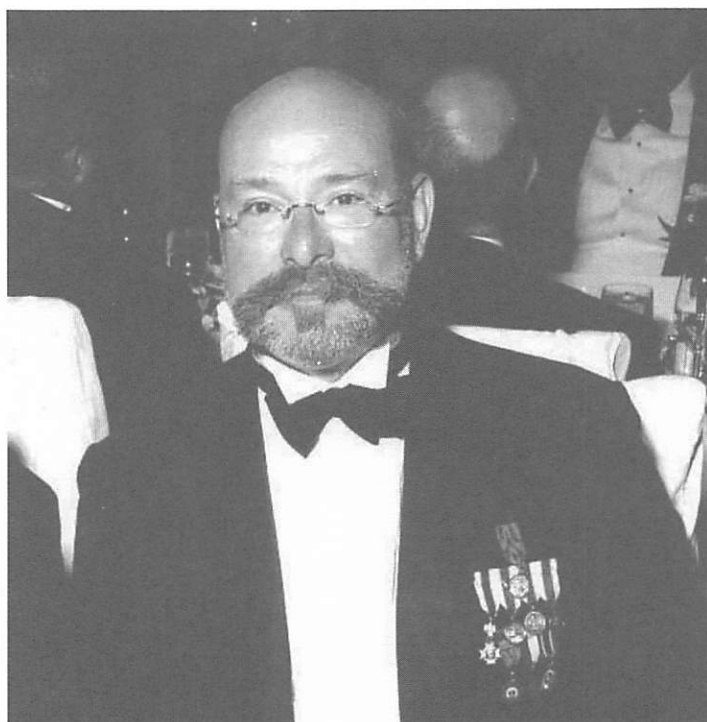
Elden Bennett, Newry
Douglas E. Chandler, Tempe, AZ
Rick Churchill, Newry
William and Gail Frongillo, Needham, MA
Robert Kates, Bethel
Henrique T. Pedro, E. Greenwich, RI
Robert K. Stewart, Cumberland Foreside
Howard and Frederika Stevenson, Cambridge, MA

In Memoriam

Died, 25 April 2007, Richard Durnin, Cranbury, NJ, Life Member
Died, 15 July 2007, William Cousins, Bethel, Life Member

ANNUAL FUND

Help keep the Society strong by making a gift to its Annual Fund Campaign. Tax deductible contributions help support its exhibits, special events, publications, and other programming. Gifts in any amount may be made throughout the year to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012.



MEMBER PROFILE **Stephen Trent Seames**

Stephen Trent Seames was born in Rumford, the son of Raymond A. and Louise Bacon Seames. He attended Greenwood schools and graduated from Gould Academy in 1975. A graduate of the University of Maine at Farmington, he pursued advanced studies at Simmons College and the University of Texas. In 1983, he began working as a reference librarian and manuscripts assistant at the Maine Historical Society. This was followed by a brief time in the office of Research and Development at Bowdoin College. In 1994, he became military archivist and museum director of the Massachusetts National Guard facility at Worcester and is currently on active military leave from that capacity. He has conducted courses and workshops in historical research and genealogy at the Maine Historical Society and the Bethel Historical Society. He also holds membership in the Society of Colonial Wars, Sons of the American Revolution and Union Veterans. He is also a past Governor of the Founders and Patriots in the State of Maine. Active in the Grange on several levels and a member of Jefferson Lodge AF & AM # 100, he also serves on the Society's Collection, Garden and Grounds and Capital Campaign Planning Committees. He also continues to be an enthusiastic volunteer for the Society and generous donor of genealogical and historical materials to the organization. His hobbies include horticulture, house restorations, and book and manuscript collecting.

SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Allen Cressy, President; Susan Herlihy, Vice President; Sarah Tucker, Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees; Walter Hatch, Treasurer; Trustees: Bruce Pierce, Arlan Jodrey, John B. Head, June Abbott, Sylvia Clanton.

Editor's Corner

Once more we are publishing a local diary which in this case has been annotated and covers less than a year of the life of a young man in his early twenties living in Hanover, Maine in 1864. Here we find numerous references to extended families, neighbors and friends. We experience first-hand the arrival of deadly diseases such as diphtheria, small pox and typhus in the community and the resulting deaths as Edgar Harvey Powers is called upon to help bury the dead. We find him usually in the midst of the community's cultural activities such as lyceums and singing schools. We read in several instances of his longing for further education and his interest in books to expand his horizons. Here he records visits with family, friends and neighbors and makes reference to those serving in the Civil War sometimes noting wartime developments that reflect the conflict's impact upon his town and region. An observant young man, he never seemed to miss much of what was going on around him and recorded his impressions, whether it be it a feud with his uncle over property lines or the gossip picked up at one of the many parties he attends. We learn much about work on the farm and in the woods during this period as well. In sum, this diary provides remarkable insights into the rhythms and cycles of life in mid-19th century inland Maine. We hope readers will find perusing this first-hand account involving rural folkways and traditions during the Civil War an engaging and gratifying experience.

SRH

Book Note

Eminent Mainers: Succinct Biographies of Thousands of Amazing Mainers, Mostly Dead and a Few People from Away Who Have Done Something Useful Within the State of Maine. Compiled by Arthur Douglas Stover. (Gardiner, Maine: Tilbury House, 2006. Pp. 531. Paper. \$20).

For those interested in Maine history, this book provides brief biographies of more than 1500 Mainers who have achieved some kind of fame for their endeavors either in the State or beyond. Some names are very familiar, i.e. James G. Blaine, Edmund S. Muskie, and Winslow Homer, but others are more obscure. For example, Hiram Abrams, born in Portland, eventually became the founder and president of United Artists. Louise Bogan, born in Livermore Falls, gained national recognition as the poetry critic for the *New Yorker*. The list goes on and on. Readers will also find the book's arrangement useful. In addition to the biographies, there is a listing of Mainers who were probably first in some endeavor such as Chester Greenwood of Farmington, who is credited with inventing the earmuff or Ellen Henriette Swallow Richards, the first female graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the first professional female scientist in the United States. There are also lists of people with Maine connections who served as ambassadors, Justices of the Supreme Court, members of the U.S. Senate and House, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate, Speakers of the U.S. House of Representatives, Governors of States, Recipients of the Medal of Honor and the Pulitzer Prize, as well as other significant designations. Finally, one can also find a listing of Maine birthplaces for many of those included in this book. For a reference work on important people with Maine connections, this book is an indispensable guide for some basic information.

SRH

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- Reduced course fees
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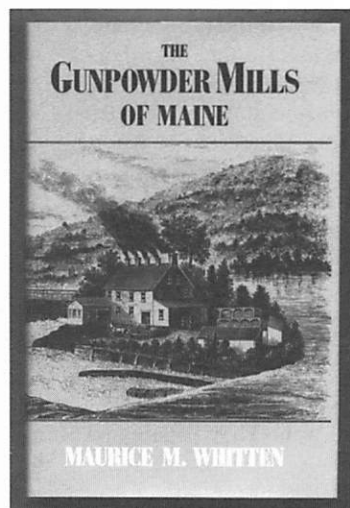
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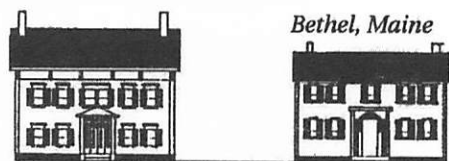
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